

S E C R E T

DCI/IC 74-1658

20 June 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: General Graham



SUBJECT : FY 75 Draft KIQs

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you of a fundamental problem in the formulation of the FY 75 KIQs which could lead to the KIQs becoming a meaningless communication from the DCI to the Intelligence Community, as well as, defeating any attempt at KIQ intelligence activity evaluation.

2. The first and most important aspect of the KIQ list is the delineation of those most important current consumer needs at the national level from (a) lesser national-level needs; and (b) departmental and tactical needs. Mr. Colby has made this point several times in recent weeks.

3. Thus, if the KIQ list is to be a meaningful communication to all members of the Intelligence Community, it must possess the exclusivity inherent in making the hard choices as to what is "most important". This also means that each KIQ is required to be written in a manner which clearly delineates the area and subject matter of its concern.

4. We are all aware of the behavioral problem which tends to decrease the exclusivity of the "most important" by including everyman's favorite item. There is, of course, a second way to destroy exclusivity and meaning, and this is through the writing of "omnibus" or "encyclopaedic" KIQs which in a limited number of words embrace an area and subject matter of vast scope and complexity. This is the current tendency and practice in too many of the draft FY 75 KIQs which I am reviewing.

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5. For example, here is KIQ No. 1 on the Economic NIO's current list.

"1. Prospects for Inflation and Recession in the Major Industrial Nations

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[redacted]

what are the policy responses of the respective governments to those changes, and what is the likely effect of these policy responses, taken collectively, on the future performance of these economies and the U.S. economy?"

6. In attachment A to this memorandum, I have made explicit the questions found in this KIQ. As you can see there are 30 explicit questions, each of which is of sufficient complexity to implicitly require analytical and information gathering efforts of considerable size.

25X1 7. [redacted] has seven other suggested KIQs of equal complexity and scope. However, I do not mean to single out the Economic NIO in this respect. His paper just happened to be on top of the pile. I can point out examples in other NIO areas as well.

8. I suggest that we in IC Staff must do everything possible to change this practice and direction. It is clearly at cross purposes with what the DCI is attempting to accomplish. It is also clear to me that this practice will kill what limited chance we have at meaningful evaluation of intelligence activities in the KEP effort.

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[redacted]
IC KEP Monitor

Attachments:

As stated

25X1 DCI/IC:PRD:TB: [redacted] (20JUN74)

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